



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

December 21, 2005

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** State Board of Education

**FROM:** Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman 

**SUBJECT:** Presentation on Proposed Changes to the Professional Standards  
Commission for Teachers

At the State Board of Education (SBE) meeting held on August 29, 2005 several Board members requested that the Office of Professional Preparation Services (OPPS) staff review the charge, procedures, composition, and length of terms of the Professional Standards Commission for Teachers (PSCT) to propose possible changes.

Attachment A is the proposed changes being recommended by OPPS staff. Attachment B is the original Proposal to create the PSCT as approved by the SBE on April 15, 1988, and later revised on October 17, 1991. The most notable proposed changes are:

To include new charges to the PSCT: (1) to advise the SBE on policies regarding teacher preparation quality, and (2) advocating the ethical conduct and professional behavior of teachers;

To require that nominating associations submit at least two nominees for each open position for SBE consideration and approval; and

To limit membership on the PSCT to one four-year term, which will give more teachers an opportunity to serve on the PSCT and provide a continuous infusion of new ideas and relevant best practice.

It should be noted that attendance records will be maintained and excessive absence at meetings will result in replacement of the member(s) in question.

The OPPS has reviewed the composition of the PSCT and recognizes that it must reflect both the breadth of the teaching profession, and the insights of teacher preparation institutions and key members of the educational community. The number and overall composition remain similar to the previous composition, with the exception that one teacher position has been reserved for a public school academy (PSA) teacher and one position for a teacher who is an active member of a core content association.

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608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909  
[www.michigan.gov/mde](http://www.michigan.gov/mde) • (517) 373-3324

**Professional Standards Commission for Teachers  
Recommendations for Revised Charge and Composition**

**CHARGE OF THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION FOR TEACHERS:**

Inasmuch as the State Board of Education (SBE) has constitutional responsibility for policy considerations regarding the preparation of Michigan teachers, the Professional Standards Commission for Teachers (PSCT) is charged to:

1. Study and recommend standards of professional preparation and practice to improve the quality of the teaching profession and its positive impacts on student achievement;
2. Develop and recommend standards for the implementation of experiences for persons preparing to become teachers;
3. Review and recommend improvements in professional development, continuing education and recertification of teachers;
4. Review and recommend changes in policies related to the revocation of teaching certificates;
5. Advise the State Board of Education (SBE) and the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) on policies regarding teacher preparation quality, including standards for the preparation of teachers; and
6. Advocate the ethical conduct and professional behavior of teachers.

**COMPOSITION:**

In light of the proposed revision to the PSCT charge and the increasing public visibility of the MDE's decisions about teacher quality, the PSCT shall be revised to incorporate the following number of positions:

- Ten (10) members representing teachers (half elementary, half secondary teachers of content specialties): including 1 nonpublic, 1 intermediate school district, 1 public school academy, and 1 teacher representing a core academic content association;
- One (1) member representing public universities;
- One (1) member representing independent colleges;
- One (1) school administrator;
- One (1) principal alternate terms for secondary, elementary; and
- One (1) local school board member.

A commission member who does not continue to have the qualifications which entitled that member to his or her original SBE appointment will result in a vacancy of the member's commission office.

**OVERALL PURPOSE OF THE PSCT:**

The purpose of the PSCT is to provide a professional learning opportunity for educators as they participate as advisors to the State Board of Education regarding teacher preparation program standards and policy. The participants extend their

understanding, and provide practical knowledge of education to make recommendations regarding the use of standards for program development, documentation and evaluation.

**APPOINTEE BACKGROUND:**

Communication to organizations concerning appointment of individuals to serve on the PSCT should include the Board's wish that consideration be given to the diversity and geographic representation of the proposed appointee(s).

**RELATIONSHIPS OF MEMBERS TO STATE BOARD MEMBERS:**

No individual shall be eligible for appointment to the PSCT if related within the fourth degree of affinity or consanguinity\* to a member of the State Board of Education.

\*Related by blood or marriage up to and including parents, sisters and brothers, grandparents, aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews, and first cousins.

**NOMINATION OF MEMBERS:**

PSCT nominees shall be proposed to the SBE through the following process:

- Associations directly representing the vacant position category shall propose two nominees for each position available, using a biographical format of the SBE that includes information on race/ethnicity, gender, and educational philosophy, to assure a representative body. Nomination of one individual shall not be considered for appointment by the SBE;
- Where more than one association represents a position, or category, nominations may be offered by all;
- Nominations must be made by associations in writing by April 1 of the year the position will be vacated;
- Members shall serve one four-year term on the PSCT. For purposes of nomination, filling out a partial term is considered as one term;
- Appointment to the PSCT is effective upon approval by the SBE.

**FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS:**

The PSCT shall be convened as needed by Office of Professional Preparation Services, but shall meet at least four times per year. Absence of any member from more than two consecutive meetings shall call for a new nomination for that position. Participation in meetings may be through electronic means at the expense of the nominating organization.

A member of the State Board of Education's Professional Standards Commission for Teachers shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of official duties.

The commission shall submit its recommendations to the State Board of Education on matters related to its charge. The State Board of Education shall consider the commission's recommendations within a 90-day period. The State Board of Education in responding to recommendations of the commission shall take one of the following actions:

1. Approve;
2. Disapprove; or
3. Disapprove with comment and refer back to commission for further study.

The commission shall publish and submit to the State Board of Education an annual report of the commission's work and additional information and recommendations the commission considers necessary.

A PROPOSAL TO CREATE A PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS  
COMMISSION FOR TEACHERS

The State Board of Education creates within the Department of Education, the Professional Standards Commission for Teachers.

As used in this proposal

"Commission" means the Professional Standards Commission for Teachers.

"Teacher" means a person who engages in teaching and includes classroom teachers, school librarians and media specialists, counselors, pre-kindergarten or early childhood teachers, and teachers in special education, vocational education, and other specialized fields required by the State Board to hold a teaching certificate or endorsement. "Teacher" includes a person who engages in teaching on a substitute or temporary basis, but does not include a teacher aide or paraprofessional.

The commission consists of 15 members appointed by the State Board of Education. Ten commission members shall be teachers who have been teaching for not less than five years immediately preceding their appointment, including nine public school teachers and one nonpublic school teacher; at least one of the teachers shall be employed by an intermediate school district; two members shall represent the institutions of higher education which offer a State Board approved teacher preparation program; one member shall be a school administrator, one member shall represent the general public; and one member shall be serving on a board of education of a local school district. A commission member who does not continue to have the qualifications which entitled that member to his or her original State Board appointment will result in a vacancy of the member's commission office.

- A. The term of each member shall be for terms of four years; except those initially appointed by the State Board, three shall be for a one-year term; three for a two-year term; four for a three-year term; and five for a four-year term.
- B. A member shall not serve more than two terms.
- C. A person appointed to fill a vacancy, occurring other than by the expiration of a term, shall be appointed for the balance of the unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment.
- D. A member shall serve until the member's successor is appointed by the State Board.
- E. The commission shall select a chairperson for its own members.

Professional Standards Commission for Teachers

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The Professional Standards Commission for Teachers is charged by the State Board of Education to:

1. Investigate and recommend standards of professional practice to improve the quality of the teaching profession.
2. Develop and recommend standards for the implementation of teacher internships, student teaching programs or other clinical teaching experiences for persons preparing to become teachers.
3. Review and recommend changes in policies related to the continuing education and recertification of teachers.
4. Review and recommend changes in policies related to the revocation of teaching certificates.

A member of the State Board of Education's Professional Standards Commission for Teachers shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of official duties.

The commission shall submit its recommendations to the State Board of Education on matters related to its charge. The State Board of Education shall consider the commission's recommendations within a 90-day period. The State Board of Education in responding to recommendations of the commission shall take one of the following actions:

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Adopted by the State Board of Education  
April 5, 1988  
Revised October 17, 1991